



saturn apartments

2

HISAE
IWAOKA



saturn
apartments 2

HISAE IWAOKA

FLOOR 9. A SMALL ROOM 003

FLOOR 10. SO CLOSE AND YET SO FAR 023

FLOOR 11. HOLIDAY 045

FLOOR 12. DINNER 065

FLOOR 13. NIGHT FESTIVAL 085

FLOOR 14. WHERE I AM NOW 105

FLOOR 15. OUT OF REACH 125

FLOOR 16. GLITTER 145

FLOOR 17. A ROOM FULL OF FLOWERS 165

IN THE LOFT 185

saturn
apartments 2

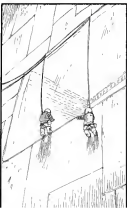




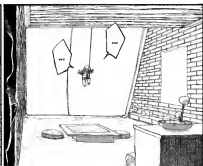
floor 9: a small room



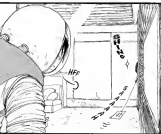


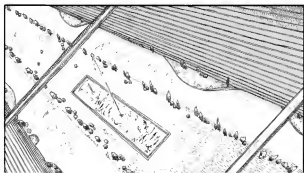
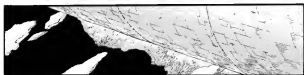


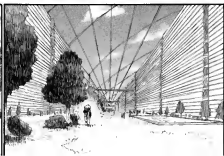


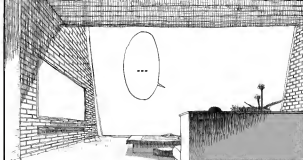




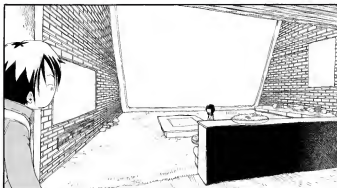






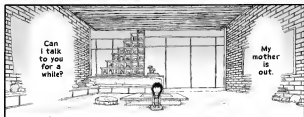














She
couldn't
keep him
from
getting
sick.

Because of
work...she
couldn't be
there when
father died.



"What should I do?"

And yet the company
kept on running, as if
nothing had happened.

She was
tortured
by these
thoughts.

"What good can I do?"

...SHE'S
SO OVER-
PROTECTIVE.

THAT'S
WHY...



AND
THERE'S NO
REASON TO
THINK THE
SAME THING
WOULD
HAPPEN
TO YOU.

...YOU HAVE
YOUR OWN
LIFE TO
LEAD,
DON'T
YOU?

It like
to think
I was
working
for their
sake.

YES,
BUT...

DO I
HAVE
IT ALL
WRONG?

If I
had
some-
one...





...WHAT
WOULD
BECOME
OF HER?

BUT IF
SHE WAS
HERE ALL
ALONE...

...IT SHOULD
BE MOTHER
WHO'S HERE
AT HOME,
NOT ME.

BE-
SIDES...



ABOUT
SOME-
THING
HOLDING
ME
BACK?

DO YOU
REMEMBER
WHAT I
SAID?



MY MOTHER
ALSO HAS
IMMUNO-
DEFICIENCY
SYNDROME.

THOUGH
HER
MEDICATION
HAS IT UNDER
CONTROL
FOR NOW.



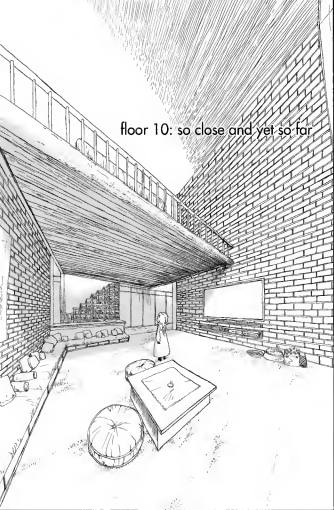
THE
COMPANY
IS DOING
FINE NOW.

AND THE
TRUTH IS
I WANT TO
MAKE A
LIFE OF
MY OWN.





floor 10: so close and yet so far





YOU
NEED
TO REST
ONCE IN
A WHILE.



FROM NOW
ON I'LL BE
GOING TO
THE OFFICE
ONCE A
WEEK IN
YOUR
PLACE.



...SO I
ASKED
MITSU TO
KEEP AN
EYE ON
YOU.

I'M A
LITTLE
WORRIED
...

WHO'S
MITSU?



I've
had an
inter-
phone
installed
that
connects
to the
cafeteria.

AND YOU
BE SURE
TO CALL
ME IF
ANYTHING
HAPPENS.



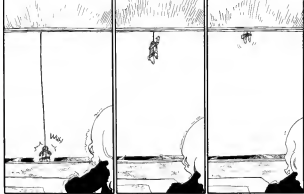
I WILL,
BUT I'M
SURE THE
OTHERS
WILL HELP
ME OUT.

CALL ME
IF THERE
ARE ANY
PROBLEMS.







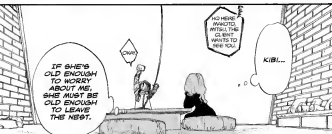




I SHOULDN'T BE SITTING HERE DOING NOTHING.



SHE TRUSTS THAT BOY.



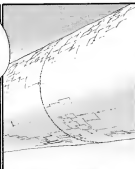
NO HERE. HAHOTO. NTSU. THE CLIENT WANTS TO SEE YOU.

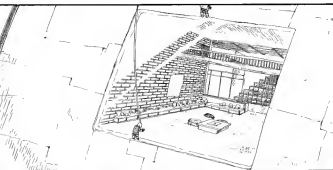
KIBL...













Mitsu...

Your
father
won't be
coming
home.

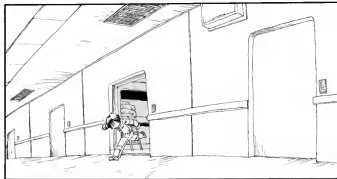
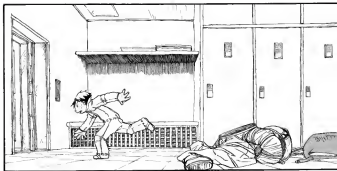


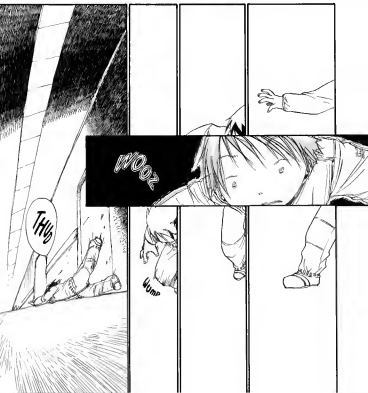
Mitsu...

Please
look
after
Mother...



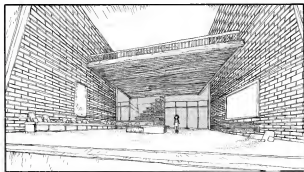


















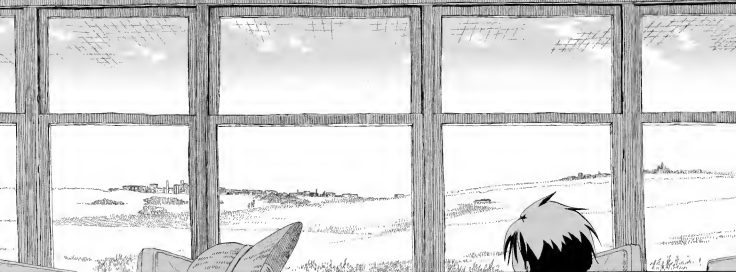


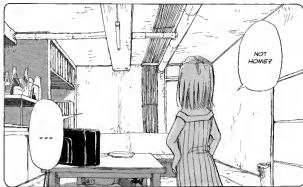
floor 11: holiday



...the
middle
levels.

I'm
traveling
through...

















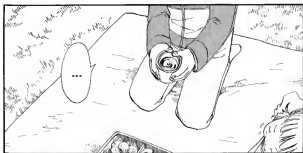














ALMOST
EVERYONE
GETS
INSECURE
LIKE THAT.

THAT'S
WHY
YOU'RE
SO
WORRIED?

OH,
MY.

SWIP

This
is



...THAT
YOU GET
MIXED
UP
SOME-
TIMES.

...AND YOU
TRY SO
HARD THAT
YOU SOME-
TIMES
FORGET
WHAT'S
GOING ON
AROUND
YOU.

BUT
YOU'RE
HONEST...



HEARING
WHAT JIN
SAYS
ABOUT
YOU, I
KNOW HE
SEES...



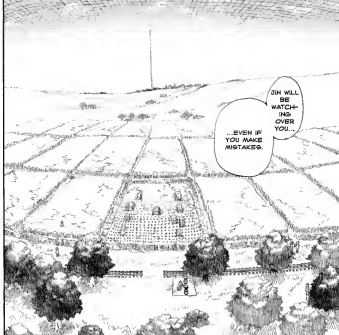
LOOK,
AKI IS
AKI, AITSU
IS AITSU.

EVERY-
ONE
KNOWS
THAT.



SO STOP
WORRYING.

HE ALSO
KNOWS THAT
THERE ARE
THINGS ONLY
YOU CAN DO.







...he stays
right by
her side.

When Jin
walks with
Haruko...

...but it
seems like
they're
holding
hands.

They're
simply
walking
side by
side...



FUYU,
WAKE UP
ALREADY.



...things
were a
little
strange.

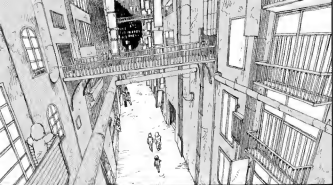


Starting
this
morning...

floor 12: dinner



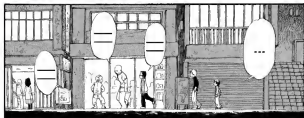




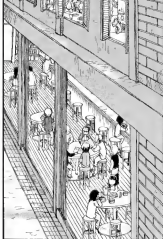
WE'RE
CELEBRATING
MITSU'S RETURN
TO WORK.
WHY DON'T
YOU JOIN US?

SAY...
YOU TWO
GOT TIME
ON YOUR
HANDS?

SURE...















MITSU, TAKE CARE OF HER. I'M GOING TO CATCH A SALE.

FUMU, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO PLAY?



WHAT'D YOU DO TO HER?! WHAT WERE YOU TWO PLAYING AT WHILE I WAS WORKING?!

DID YOU PLAY HIDE-AND-SEEK OR TAG?!

FUMU



HMM?



HMM? WANT TO PLAY HOUSE?

OOF

OOF



THIS IS DADDY.

Utsa











I'LL
CALL
THEM
NEXT
TIME.



...

How



SO MITSU,
WHAT DO
YOU
USUALLY
DO?

DON'T YOU
HANG OUT
WITH YOUR
CLASS-
MATES?



I...
I-I-I'M
SORRY.

...
FORGOT
ABOUT
THEM...

NO, I
JUST...

YOU'VE
BEEN
BUSY
SINCE
YOU
STARTED
WORKING.



AMUSE...
MENT...
PARK? AD...
VENTURE...
PLAY...
GROUND? CHESS...
CLUB?

WHY
ARE YOU
TALKING
LIKE A
FOR-
BESNER?



HEEE...
HEEE...
HEEE...

I'LL
TAKE
YOU
ANY-
WHERE.

YOU
GOTTA
THINK
THAT
HARD?



ANYWHERE
YOU WANNA
GO?

I'LL
TAKE
YOU.





INSIGNIFICANT
STUFF WITH AN
UPPER-LEVEL
ACQUAINTANCE
I MET AT THE
RESEARCH
LAB.

EVERYTHING
HAS SOME
VALUE IN
THIS
WORLD!



SO
WHAT'RE
YOU DOING
NOW?

A LITTLE
RESEARCH
...



THEY
FORCED YOU
OUT BECAUSE
YOU'RE FROM
THE LOWER
LEVEL?

NO. LET'S
JUST
SAY IT
WAS MY
OWN
DECISION.



LIKE...

...WHAT THE
SEARCH
PARTIES ON
THE EARTH'S
SURFACE
ARE REALLY
DOING?



I'M INVESTIGATING SILLY THINGS LIKE THAT.



HUH?





JIN,
KAGEYAMA,
TAMACHI,
GOHTA...

OH
WELL.

LET'S
GO,
THEN.



LAST
CALL,
MISTER.
ORDER
YOUR
DRINKS
NOW.



YOUR
LAST
ORDER.
BOILED
EGGS.



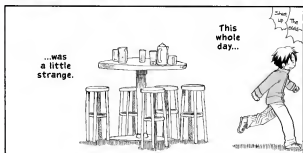
DON'T
BE SO
FORMAL.
DRINK.

SIR.

THERE'S
NOTHING
MORE
TO DRINK.



...THANK
YOU SO
MUCH FOR
TODAY.



floor 13: night festival

There
was a
festival
in the
middle
levels.





The
middle
levels
are
usually
empty
at
night
...

...but
every
year
people
put on
costumes
...

...and
come
out
for
this
festival.



—TSU.



HEEY,
MITSU.



DIDNT
YOUR
FATHER
USED TO
WEAR IT?

HMM...
I DONT
REMEMBER.



DONT
KNOW.

WHAT'RE
YOU
DRESSED
UP AS?

I FOUND
THIS AT
HOME
SO I
WORE IT.

AH...



BUT I
THINK
AKI...

I THINK
IT WAS
BEFORE
YOU WERE
BORN.





















HE LOOKED
LIKE MITSU
NOW, JUST
WITH HIS
OWN HAIR.

AH,
YES.



I CAN
HEAR
THE
SOUND
OF HIS
BEARD.

SURE.

THATCH,
LET'S GO
MAKE THAT
REFUEL.

THANKS FOR
LETTING US
KNOW, SACH.



HE WAS
BUSY
TAKING
CARE OF
LITTLE
YOU.

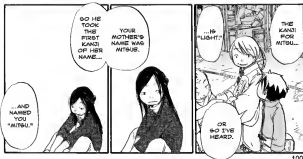
WHY WAS
HE SO
BUSY?



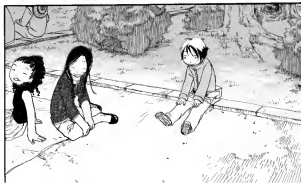
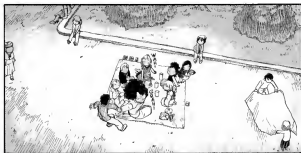
NO TIME
FOR A
HAIRCUT.
I WAS
BUSY.













...I WANT TO
REMEMBER
TONIGHT
FOREVER.

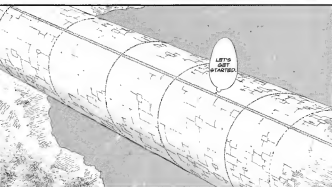
I JUST...

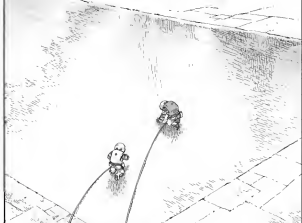


WHAT
IS IT?



floor 14: where I am now









SHOULD
WE START
A DINNER
CLUB OR
SOME-
THING?

WE DON'T
EAT
TOGETHER
OFTEN
ENOUGH.

Thanks for
inviting me.

I HOPE
I GET
INVITED
AGAIN.



WE
FIGGED
OUT.







I'M GETTING MORE RESPONSIBILITIES, TOO.

MY HANDS ARE GRADUALLY GETTING USED TO IT, AND I'M STARTING TO UNDERSTAND IT BETTER.

Cast, left, effort

Like the WASH WASH



NO REALLY! I REALLY LIKE WORK!

SERIOUSLY?!



JIN ISN'T HERE. YOU CAN BE HONEST.

YOU'RE JUST SAYING WHAT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THESE PEOPLE...



WATCH WHAT YOU'RE DOING!

If it's not that, it's hard to get the dirt off later

THE WAX IS LUMPY!

RAR!

Keep your hand steady!
you don't want to slip!

...BUT I'M STARTING TO GET IT NOW.



LOOK AT IT.

AT FIRST, I COULDN'T TELL HOW WELL I'D DONE ON THE FINISH...

I CAN'T TELL!



NOW I GET IT.

JIN DIDN'T YELL AT ME AT ALL TODAY.





If I did
go down
to the
surface,
what
would I
say to
Dad?



BEING
LIKE AKI
MEANS...

...WASHING
WINDOWS
PERFECTLY,
FIXING
RUPTURES
QUICKLY...

And
being
hard-
core!

...AND
HAVING
YOUR
CREW'S
CONFIDENCE.

I'VE
GOT A
LONG
WAY TO
GO...



I MUST'VE
DONE
SOME-
THING
WRONG
TODAY.



STRAIN
YOUR
ELBOW,
MITSU?

YEAH...
A LITTLE.



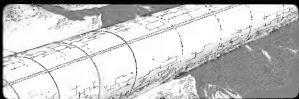
MAYBE I
OVERDID
IT AND
HURT
MYSELF.
I DON'T
REMEMBER
DOING
ANYTHING
TO HURT
IT.

HEY
...









HEAD-
QUARTERS
HERE.

HAVE YOU
TAKEN
COVER?

...THE
DEBRIS IS
GONNA
RAIN DOWN
ALL OVER
THE
PLACE.

THEY CAN'T
MAKE ADJUST-
MENTS IN TIME,
SO THEY'RE
GONNA
SHOOT IT
DOWN...

MYKING
REFRAYS IS
GONNA
DO A FIRM.

A FALLING
OBJECT
ABOUT 80
CM LONG?

A METE-
ORITE?

MAKE SURE
YOUR
PARTNER'S
SAFE TOO.

WHERE'S
SACH?

WHAT'S
THAT?





AKI?



AKI!







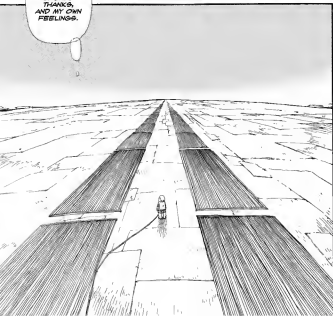
I'LL DELIVER
SACHI'S
THANKS,
AND MY OWN
FEELINGS.

So
I'll go.



He's
stopped
time
and he's
waiting
on the
surface.

And I
realize
now that
he's
waiting
out
there.

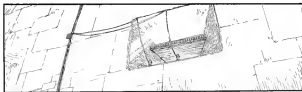






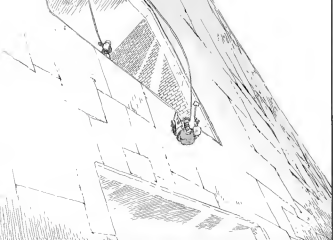


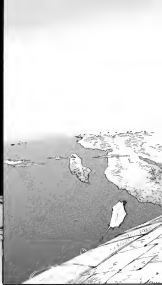






















NO.

...



...YOU'RE
NOT
RETURN-
ING TO
THE
GUILD?

TAMACHI

...



YOU CAN'T
RETURN
BECAUSE
EVERYONE
ACCUSED
YOU!

IT'S
BECAUSE
OF AKI'S
ACCIDENT.



MITSU
INCLUDED.

AND NOW
EVERYONE'S
CONVE-
NIENTLY
FORGOTTEN
ABOUT
THAT.



In that
vast,
silent
space...

Everyone
just
scrubbing
away, like
they're
handling
treasure.

I'D
THOUGHT
I'D BE A
WINDOW
CLEANER
ALL MY
LIFE.

IT'S
SOMETHING
I MUST
ALWAYS
REMEMBER.

I
DESTROYED
ALL THAT.

YOU
KEEP
PULLING...

...ON
THAT
ROPE,
BUT...

I'M
SCARED
TO GO
OUT
THERE
ANYMORE.

BEHIND
...



...
DEPEND
ON
OTHERS
TO
PROTECT
THEIR
LIVES?

DO
WINDOW
CLEANERS
...



...THERE'S
NOTHING
AT THE
END.

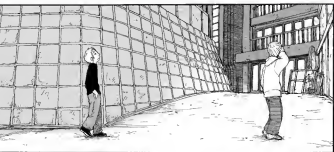


...NO
ONE
THINKS
THAT
WAY.

ME. YOU.
AKI. EVEN
MITSU...



COME
BACK IF
IT MEANS
SO MUCH
TO YOU.





MITSU!
WAIT!



MA'AM!



MAKOTO,
YOU MUST
HAVE
FOLLOWED
UP ON
MITSU.



DRIVWAY
CLEAR
FOR
ENTRY!

HEAD-
QUARTERS,
DO YOU HAVE
ANOTHER
LIFT?



WHAT?
SHOULD
WE CALL
EMERGENCY?

HEAD-
QUARTERS,
A RESIDENT
IN Q-463
HAS
COLLAPSED!



...BUT I
COULDN'T
UNDER-
STAND.

HE WAS
SAYING
SOMETHING
ABOUT A
RESIDENT ON
THE UPPER
LEVELS...



YES.

HE'S A
WINDOW
WASHER
...



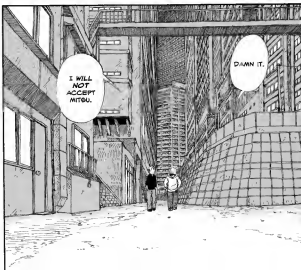
"THERE'RE
PEOPLE
BEHIND
THE
WINDOWS."

WHY DID WE
CHOOSE A
JOB WHERE
WE'RE
NEVER
FINISHED,
NO MATTER
HOW HARD
WE TRY?



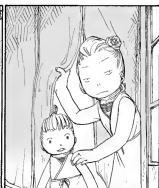
I WILL
NOT
ACCEPT
MITSU.

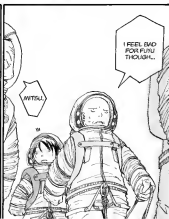
DAWN IT.

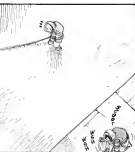


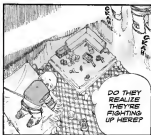


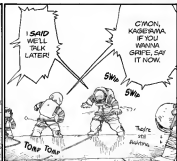
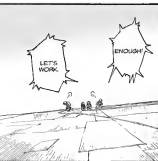
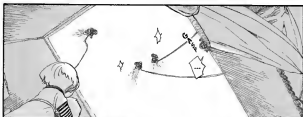


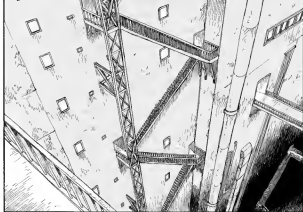








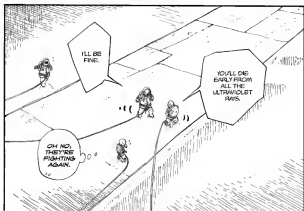








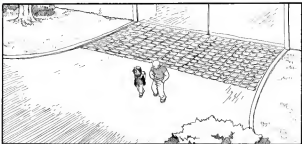














IT'S
EMBARRASSING.

I DON'T
WANT THEM
WATCHING
ME!



...ISN'T
THAT IT?

MR.
KAGEYAMA,
YOU CLEAN
THE WINDOWS
IN A WAY THAT
THE KIDS
ENJOY...



HMM

WHAT THE
HELL IS
"GLITTER"?



WELL,
I AM
AMAZING...



BUT YOU
STILL
MANAGE TO
DO YOUR
WORK LIKE
ALWAYS.
THAT'S
AMAZING.



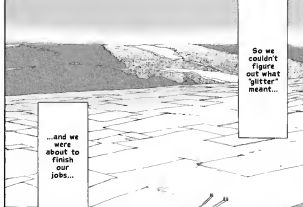
No.
Kage's a
good kid

MAYBE
SHE
DOESN'T
CARE
ABOUT
ME?



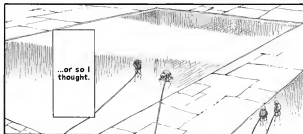
...DOESN'T
MAKE
DEMANDS
LIKE
THOSE
KIDS.

IN ANY
CASE, MY
DAUGHTER...



So we
couldn't
figure
out what
"glitter"
meant...

...and we
were
about to
finish
our
jobs...



...or so I
thought.



...the
angles...

...of
the
light...

When the
conditions
are just
right,
including...





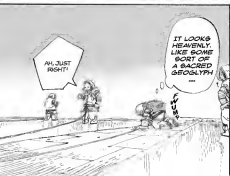
When Mr. Kageyama turns off the ultraviolet filter for just a moment...

BOOM



...it happens.

...to check the finish...



AH, JUST RIGHT!

IT LOOKS HEAVENLY, LIKE SOME SORT OF A SACRED GEOGLYPH

I know how
amazing Mr.
Kageyama
can be.

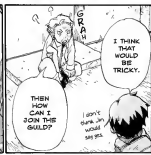
WITSU,
STOP
STARRING AT
ME. GET
TO WORK.

MR.
KAGEYAMA,
SOMEDAY I'LL
DO THIS JOB
BETTER
THAN YOU.

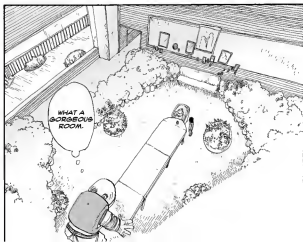
WHAT?
NOT IN A
HUNDRED
YEARS!

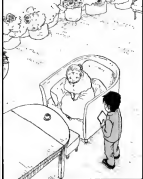
floor 17: a room full of flowers













I'M
KUZU.

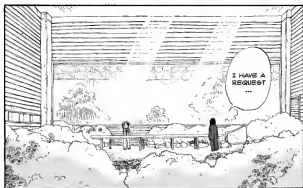
EXCUSE
ME FOR
CALLING
YOU IN.



BUT THERE'RE
SO MANY
FLOWERS,
IT LOOKS
LIKE SOME
SORT OF
CELEBRATION...

...THEY'LL
GIVE YOU
TEA AND
SWEETS?

DO YOU
REALLY
THINK...



I HAVE A
REQUEST
...



THIS
MAN,
YUSUKE.



YES, BUT
THERE'S
NO ONE
ELSE WE
CAN ASK
FOR
HELP...

THAT HAS
NOTHING
TO DO WITH
CLEANING
WINDOWS...



WHAT?!

I'D LIKE
YOU TO
LOOK FOR
SOMEONE
IN THE
LOWER
LEVELS.





PEOPLE
HERE...

...WOULDN'T
HAVE
TRANS-
CENERS.



THIS
ADDRESS...
IS FROM
FORTY
YEARS
AGO.



THIS
IS THE
PLACE.



WAH!



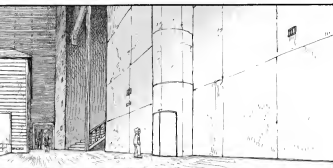
HELLOP

YUSUKE
?

IS THERE
ANYONE
LIVING
HERE?













BUT DON'T
YOU HAVE
A PROMISE
THAT'S
PRECIOUS
TO YOU?



THAT'S
A TRIAL
SORT OF
PROMISE.

...THAT I'D
ATTEND HER
HUNDREDTH
BIRTHDAY
CELEBRA-
TION.



I'M THE
ONLY
ONE NOW
WHO'S
KNOWN
HER FOR
FORTY
YEARS.



And
going
to the
festival
together.

...YES.



PLEASE
SAY
THANKS
TO YOUR
FATHER.



I'd just
turned
20.

OH.

OH,
YOU'RE
THE
ONE.

I WILL BE
YOUR SERVANT
FROM TODAY.
I'M YUSUKE.



I WORKED
BESIDE
MADAM ALL
THE TIME.

IN THE
BEGINNING I
TOOK SOME
TIME OFF...



PLEASE
MAKE
YOURSELF
AT HOME.



LET'S
TAKE
CARE OF
THEM.

YES...

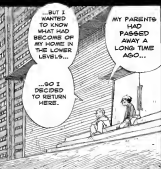


I LOVE
THIS
FLOWER.

I LOVE
ITS SOFT
COLOR...



...BUT
EVENTUALLY
I BEGAN
TO THINK
THAT THE
KUIZE HOME
WAS MY
HOME TOO.



...BUT I
WANTED
TO KNOW
WHAT HAD
BECOME OF
MY HOME IN
THE LOWER
LEVELS...

...SO I
DECIDED
TO RETURN
HERE.

MY PARENTS
HAD
PASSED
AWAY A
LONG TIME
AGO...



I WAS WITH
HER FOR
A LONG
TIME...

...AND
WHEN I
TURNED 60,
I SUDDENLY
REMEMBERED
MY OWN
FAMILY.

MADAM
HERSELF
WAS WARM,
LIKE A
FLOWER IN A
GREENHOUSE.



PLEASE
COME BACK
TO CELEBRATE
GRANDMOTHER'S
HUNDRETH
BIRTHDAY.

I PROMISED
I'D ATTEND
HER
BIRTHDAY.



THIS
IS A
LOT.

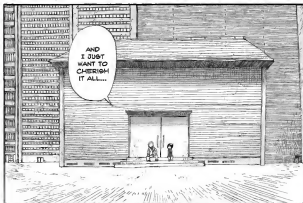
THIS IS
YOUR
RETIREMENT
BONUS.
IT'S NOT
MUCH...

I JUST
COULDN'T
USE THAT
MONEY.



TIME'S
PASSED,
JUST LIKE
MY LIFE...

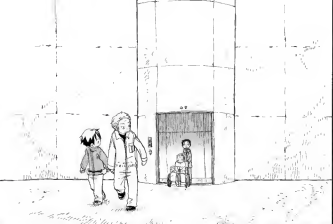
SO MUCH
OF WHAT I
KNEW HAS
DISAP-
PEARED.

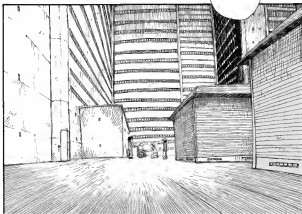


AND
I JUST
WANT TO
CHERISH
IT ALL...









in the loft









I THINK
THAT'S
BETTER...



THERE.



...YOU
LOOK
GREAT.

DON'T
LIE TO
ME.



The
ends
are still
unruly.



YOU WANNA
GO EAT
SOME-
THING?

I REALLY
WISH I
COULD'VE
GIVEN HER
THAT
FLOWER.

Thanks to Aikou Egami, Mahi Hirai, Masumi Kasai, Fumiko Kinoshita, and to you, for reading.

THE END OF SATURN APARTMENTS 2



saturn apartments

SATURN APARTMENTS

Volume 2

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